

## BE PREPARED!

During winter months, use this handy checklist to make sure you're prepared every time you take a trip.

- ☐ Jack and lug wrench
- ☐ Shovel
- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Road maps
- ☐ Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- ☐ Ice scraper and snow brush
- ☐ Cell phone and car adapter
- ☐ Flashlight with fresh batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Matches or lighter
- ☐ Battery jumper cables
- ☐ Extra food
- ☐ Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Pocket knife
- ☐ Extra washer fluid



For more information,  
or to request a safety  
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Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois  
ISP Central Printing Section  
Printed on Recycled Paper  
ISP 5-221 (6/17) 5M  
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State of Illinois  
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## Preparing for Winter Travel



Illinois State Police



## TAKE YOUR TIME ...

- Check Illinois road conditions at [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com) before you leave or call the Winter Road Conditions Hotline at 1-800-452-4368 for valuable travel information, which is continuously updated.
- Choose main routes and be rested and alert.
- Make someone aware of your routes and if your plans change, let someone know. Check in when you've reached your destination.
- Remember, cell phone coverage is not available in many remote areas.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Clear any snow, ice or frost from windows, lights, hood, heater and air inlet vents (don't forget mirrors and wipers).
- Do not drive with the heater in recirculation mode as it can increase humidity.
- Drive with your lights on and reduce your speed.



## USE THESE TIPS TO PREVENT SLIPS

Adjust your driving for the conditions. If there is ice or snow on the road you must take extra precautions.

- Don't use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather.
- Position your hands on the steering wheel at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock.
- If you lose traction, gradually slow down – don't slam on the brakes!
- Steering, braking and accelerating smoothly are key to maximum vehicle control on slippery surfaces. Steer just enough to follow the path you intend (most people steer too much or too fast).
- Be ready to handle potentially dangerous situations by thinking ahead about your options, such as controlling your speed and changing lanes.
- Use extra caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways – ice forms first on these surfaces.
- Avoid driving through snowdrifts; they may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Slow down in advance of shaded areas, especially curves, where ice and snow are the last to melt.

## WATCH OUT FOR SNOWPLOWS

Remember...snowplows are covered under Scott's Law, the "Move Over Law," which mandates that when approaching any emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway, you must:

- Proceed with due caution
- Change lanes if possible
- Reduce your speed



Following a snowplow too closely can be dangerous. Give them room.

## DURING A WINTER STORM

### IF STRANDED IN A CAR ...

**Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you!** Turn your hazard lights on, hang a piece of cloth or distress flag from the radio antenna or window, or display a trouble sign.

When the engine is running, open a window slightly. This will protect you from carbon monoxide. You may need to clear snow away from the car's exhaust pipe.

